

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	ZESMAN Consultancy
Project Title:	Assisting EWNHS in Strategic Roll-out of CEPF investment in Ethiopia
Date of Report:	31 May 2017
Report Author and Contact Information	Abdurahiman Kubsa, akubsa@ymail.com

CEPF Region: EAM

Strategic Direction: 3

Grant Amount: USD 20,000 (twenty thousand)

Project Dates: February 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

EWNHS in Addis Ababa, Birdlife from Nairobi and CEPF from Washington were implementation partners. EWNHS has introduced the consultant to the large grant grantees in Addis Ababa, EWNHS has also provided office space when the consultant was in Addis Ababa and logistics during field work. Moreover, EWNHS was also involved in grantees meetings. All the project activities were planned and implemented in regular consultation with EWNHS.

Birdlife has provided induction training to the consultant in Nairobi. Then after, the communication between Birdlife and the consultant was mainly using email and skype. The roles of Birdlife have included receiving performance and financial reports every six month from the consultant and receiving and commenting on projects' field monitoring reports. There was also email communication between the consultant and CEPF on matters concerning the CEPF supported projects in Ethiopia.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The need for this project was specified in call 11 of the regional implementation team of the EAM hotspots to engage a consultant that supports EWNHS in rolling out CEPF investment in Ethiopia. Moreover, CEPF ecosystem profile has a good intention of building the capacities of the civil society organizations that financially supported by CEPF.

Various steps were taken to identify the need of the grantees. The steps included visiting the respective offices of the large grants grantees based in Addis Ababa, organizing meetings for the large grants based in Addis Ababa, reviewing of performance and financial reports, field level monitoring of small and large grant projects; and communication using telephone and email.

All the steps were associated with identification of grantees needs/challenges in successfully implementing the projects.

The overall change as the result of the engagement of the consultant included RIT has better image of each projects that the consultant has monitored in Ethiopia, reduced

workload of EWNHS and increased RIT's presence in Ethiopia. The grantees have also confirmed that they have gained a lot from the rich experiences of the consultant.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.

The project implementers were technically supported and their capacities were built in project implementation through field level projects' monitoring and feedback. A total of fourteen projects were physically monitored at field level. The physically monitored large grant grantees include SUNARMA, FZS, MELCA, PHE, Bahirdar University, AAU, EWCP and ORDA. A total of six small grant grantees were monitored within the project. Included were GPRDO, OSD, Mettu University, the University of Gondar (two projects) and BfDE. All the monitoring has ended with giving feed back to the grantees in writing and verbally. During the monitoring visits, the consultant has conducted meetings with the beneficiaries and stakeholders of the respective projects. LEM Ethiopia has requested the consultant and EWNHS to comment on the biodiversity mainstreaming guideline draft and to attend validation workshop. The consultant has commented and participated at the validation workshop. The need of GBG was exceptional in that the project was not able to be implemented as planned. The consultant, EWNHS, RIT and CEPF have made concerted efforts to ensure the implementation of the project which eventually terminated due to the problem of the grantee. The consultant and EWNHS focal person have presented about CEPF supported projects to JICA and French Development Agency in Addis. Therefore, the capacities of large and small grant implementing grantees that work in biodiversity conservation were built through meetings and field level project monitoring.

EWNHS focal person was regularly advised on issues related to projects. Project performance and financial reports were reviewed by the consultant in the effort of supporting EWNHS. There was also regular consultation between the focal person and the consultant. During the meetings with the grantees in Addis Ababa, project status was discussed, CEPF procedures were explained and issues related to reports were discussed. Two such meetings were held with the large grant grantees in Addis Ababa. The meetings were held at MELCA and EWNHS. In case the grantees delay responses to CEPF or RIT comments or questions, the consultant and the focal person were following up with the issues and reminding the grantees to respond.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: N/A
Species Conserved: N/A
Corridors Created: N/A

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The project has successfully achieved its objective in that it has fully supported EWNHS in ensuring the implementation of the projects and RIT/CEPF in ensuring biodiversity conservation in the target areas.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)? NO

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

The important lesson during the implementation of the project found to be the challenges of linking biodiversity conservation to livelihood improvement. Apparently, many of the grantees have very little experiences in biodiversity conservation. The availability of financial resources for the conservation of biodiversity hotspots has attracted many actors to be involved in the conservation of biodiversity. They have designed the projects to achieve two objectives simultaneously: biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement. Achieving both simultaneously appeared to be challenging.

Apparently, conservation itself is a complex issue where many depend on the resources to be conserved. Moreover, the financial resource allocated for the projects was insufficient to address conservation issues in one or two years. Moreover, each project attempted to address livelihood issues of small number of the population. As the result many projects found to struggle in linking biodiversity conservation with livelihood improvement.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The project was designed based on the need of the Regional Implementation Team for Eastern Afromontane Hotspots that expressed through the call for proposal number 11. The project was designed based the long experience of the consultant in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, the consultant has worked for years in biodiversity conservation and community participation in conservation. That was an important asset of the consultant to properly design the project and significantly contributed to the success of the project's success.

As specified in the call the project was expected to undertake the following tasks in supporting EWNHS:

- a. Support EWNHS with the issuing of relevant calls for proposals, assessment of LOIs, and selection of a final set of proposals for new KBAs/research/non-iconic species etc this may include Ethiopia.
- b. Assist applicants to design high-quality projects which are clearly formulated in CEPF project proposal format and which contribute to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy in Ethiopia. Support 3 large grants once the Sole Source documents are approved.
- c. Assist EWNHS with the monitoring of CEPF-funded grants in Ethiopia. This should cover all large grants and ongoing small grants.
- d. Assist EWNHS with reviewing grantee project reports.
- e. Communicating project/programme outputs to external audiences, especially vis-à-vis CEPF donors in Ethiopia (GEF focal point, EU delegation, World Bank reps, French/Japanese governments) and try to forge linkages with other donors/private sector.

All the tasks were successfully implemented.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The main objective of the project was assisting EWNHS. In order to accomplish the project successfully, the consultant has established conducive working condition with EWNHS. Activities were planned and executed in consultation with EWNHS. EWNHS has offered the necessary logistics and finance for monitoring. The consultant has offered 110 days instead of 50 to 70 days with no additional cost.

The commitment of EWNHS, the consultant and RIT for the success of the project implementation have contributed to successfully implement the project.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Conservation community has to pay attention for the presence of professional knowhow in conservation for projects to be funded. Equally important lesson is the need for capacity building in conservation of biodiversity.

Some of the grantees have very little experience in conservation work and lack professionals that have worked in conservation. In the absence of professionals with experience in conservation, it takes extra effort to achieve the objectives of conservation. Therefore, capacity building needs to be considered at the early stage of the project rather than towards the end of the project according to the need of the grantees.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

According to the original agreement, the consultant was supposed to work for 50 to 70 days. However, the consultant has spent more than 110 days in undertaking the assignment. This means the working days have increased by nearly 100%. As the result the client has saved financial resource otherwise the cost would have been higher. Moreover, the consultant has used own office and computer.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The experiences and lessons that the consultant has gained as the result of engaging in the project is considered important for the future assignments of the consultant in other similar projects. Moreover, it is believed that the experiences and lessons the grantees have gained as the result of enrolling themselves in biodiversity conservation could be replicated in other similar projects.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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*****please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date	Describe the principal results achieved during project period (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table.

